

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Mayor Healy and City of Jersey City to Welcome Indian Women's Delegation Trade Mission Has Goal of Building Greater Business Exchanges between Jersey City and India

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council and the Jersey City Economic Development Corporation will welcome a delegation of Indian business women who are members of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at a **9:30 a.m. breakfast on Monday, Sept. 15, 2008** at the **Hudson County Community College Culinary Conference Center**, 161 Newkirk Avenue.

The purpose of the four-day visit by twenty of India's most dynamic business and professional women is to continue the interaction between the Delhi-based Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and New Jersey business women who have made biannual journeys to India since 2005. Their visit here will highlight the business, education, and cultural sectors of northern New Jersey.

"Jersey City is the economic engine driving the state's economy and we are proud that many of our businesses are owned and operated by members of the Indian community," said **Mayor Healy**. "Jersey City is the gateway to the cultural and financial capital of the world, New York City, and that is why our city continues to grow alongside its great partner across the Hudson River."

Jersey City will serve as the host venue with Mayor Healy and other city agencies will participate in the welcoming breakfast for the delegation hosting an opening reception. The Jersey City Economic Development Corporation, through its Urban Enterprise Zone program, will present an overview of the city's business sectors. Other participants will include The Provident Bank, Liberty Harbor Development, Liberty Science Center, and member companies of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce.

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“We also look forward to building a greater commercial and cultural exchange with India,” **Mayor Healy** noted.

The four-day program will commence with a reception at India House, the official Indian Consulate in Manhattan. The program will include visits to the Newark Museum, the Essex County Historic Courthouse, Liberty Harbor Development, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Highlighting the trade mission will be a televised Town Hall Meeting at the New Jersey Network (NJN) studio, featuring a cultural overview by the newly formed Indian Leadership Council. An interview with Indian President Pratibha Patel will be the keystone of the session. Following this exchange, Robert Provost, the Marketing Director at the *Star-Ledger*, will provide an in-depth view of New Jersey’s diversity as a market.

The centerpiece of the hosting delegation is its commitment to Children’s Hope of India, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the condition of children throughout the world, but specifically in India. Bloomingdales at Riverside Square and Melody NYC Vintage Jewelry, as well as select galleries at the Manhattan Arts and Antiques Center, will donate 10% of the sales generated by the delegation to this important U.S.-based children’s charity.

Summarizing the week-long program, Daryl Rand, leader and chair of the U.S.-based delegation, indicated, “Our unofficial organization, known as the ‘Friends of India,’ has established a comprehensive network of relationships and opportunities. Both countries will benefit from this unique commitment to business issues and entrepreneurialism with women as the catalyst to bridge both. I am honored to help forge this union.” For more information on the FICCI trade mission, please contact Daryl Rand at 201-861-5600.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.

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